

COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS GROUP

The Community Pharmacists Group (CPG) was set up in 1994.

It represents and promotes the interests of community pharmacists across Great Britain both internally within the Society and externally. Membership is open to any pharmacist who is a member of the RPSGB and is engaged in community pharmacy.

The committee also has the discretion to grant membership to any pharmacist who is not directly involved in the practice of community pharmacy but who can show a keen interest in community pharmacy.

COMMITTEE

The committee has representatives from community pharmacy who have been owners, employees and locums and worked in small independent pharmacies and large multiples.

Committee members are also LPC members and representative on PECs.

There are a number of observers from the key organisations involved in the practice of community pharmacy eg NPA, PSNC, CCA

CURRENT MEMBERS

Jeremy Clitherow (Chairman)
John Hind (Vice-Chairman)
Michael Levitan
Andrew McCoig
Vanessa Taylor
Phillip Yelling
Gerald Zeidman

Nominated observers from the following organisations

Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies
Company Chemists Association
Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee
National Pharmaceutical Association

Council members

Cathryn Brown
David Carter

Administration

Heidi Wright (Head of Practice)
Angela Canning (secretarial support)

The committee meets at least three times a year to discuss community pharmacy matters.

Committee members are elected for a 3 year period

PURPOSE

- Promotes community pharmacy.
- Informs Society of issues affecting or likely to impact on community pharmacy.
- Represents the views of the members to the Society.
- Provides advice on community pharmacy practice to the Society.
- Supports and promotes education on community pharmacy.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The CPG newsletter is published in 'Your Society' three times a year.

Topics covered include:

- Reporting instances of violence within the NHS
- Long term conditions - integrating the role of community pharmacy
- Smoking cessation
- Work of the Harmonisation Accreditation Group (HAG) to allow pharmacists to provide enhanced services
- Practice-Based Commissioning
- Lung cancer awareness
- Research on the pharmacy contract
- Why business service continuity planning matters

The newsletter can be accessed via the CPG section of the Society's website:

www.rpsgb.org/societyfunctions/peopleandstructures/membersandspecialinterestgroupscommunitypharmacistgroup.html

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

These are wide and varied and include:-

- Workload pressures
- Manpower and skill mix
- Understanding the changing environment - policy and organisational
- IT for prescribing, transfer of prescriptions and access to patient information
- Implementation of new contracts (Pharmacy and GP) and obtaining funding for new services
- Uptake and opportunities for non- medical prescribing
- Out of hours service
- CPD
- Personal safety - violence in pharmacies
- Clinical governance requirements
- Code of Ethics implications

FUTURE PLANS

- The CPG is currently looking at its role, how it will operate in the new devolved structure of the Society, and how it will ensure community pharmacy is represented in the discussions around the formation of a new professional body
- In addition, it is looking at how best use can be made of the community pharmacy contractual framework. For example, how can MURs can be supported and how can the commissioning of enhanced services can be promoted.

The CPG would welcome any suggestions on future work items.

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**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain



*Produced by the Practice Division
Professional Services Directorate
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain*

November 2008